

Population Interactions

2.1.7 Describe and explain population interactions using examples of named species.

Type of Interaction		Symbol	Description	Example
Competition	Intraspecific	— —	Competition <i>within</i> the same population → impacts carrying capacity	• Bears competing for the same fish
	Interspecific	— —	Competition between different species	• Plants competing for the same light
Predation		+ —	One organism (predator) consumes another (the prey)	• Lion eats a deer • Pitcher plant traps & absorbs insects
Herbivory		+ —	An animal (an herbivore) eats a green plant. Plants have defenses (spines, poisons, etc) to protect themselves	• Elephant eats trees • Rabbits eat lettuce • Leaf miner insects eat leaves
Parasitism		+ —	One species (the parasite) lives in or on another organism (the host). The parasites try not to kill the host	• Hook worms • Vampire bats
Commensalism		+ 0	One organism benefits from the relationship while the other organism neither benefits or is harmed	• Orchids growing on a tree trunk
Mutualism		+ +	Two organism both benefit from their relationship. Neither suffers	• Lichens (made of fungi & algae) • Protist that lives in Termite's stomach • Bacteria living on the roots of legumes • Sea anemones and clown fish